



TRIP is back up to speed . . .

In January, the Department of Revenue completed its transition to a new income tax computer system called the Wisconsin Income and Tax Processing System or WINPAS, replacing a system used by the department since the 1960's. As reported to you in our October 2006 TRIP newsletter, we anticipated that our conversion to WINPAS would slow down tax interceptions for a period of time. We had hoped to implement TRIP concurrently with WINPAS on January 10, 2007. However, the Department was delayed in completing final interface implementation between WINPAS and TRIP. During the period of transition, refund intercept activity continued to occur from the Department's delinquent tax system as well as our manual check writing process. We successfully launched the TRIP interface on January 25, 2007, two weeks later than anticipated. We are pleased to report that WINPAS is working effectively and integrating accurately with TRIP.

Prorating Tax Refunds for County and Municipality Intercepts

The Department of Revenue has changed its policy regarding prorating joint income tax refunds. Prorating a refund between a debtor and a non-debtor spouse is necessary when we become aware that the debt certified for collection is a non-marital debt.

Prior to prorating the debt, the debtor or spouse will need to provide the department with a copy of their marital property agreement or pre-marital agreement that indicates income and debts will retain their characteristic as individual property. If there is no agreement but the caller indicates the debt was incurred prior to marriage, we will ask for proof of their marriage date. Once the proof is received, we will contact the county or municipality to verify when the debt was incurred.

If we receive proof that the debt is not a marital obligation, we will prorate the refund and send you the correct amount. If the entire refund was already released to you, we will inform you of the amount of the refund that needs to be sent to the non-debtor spouse.

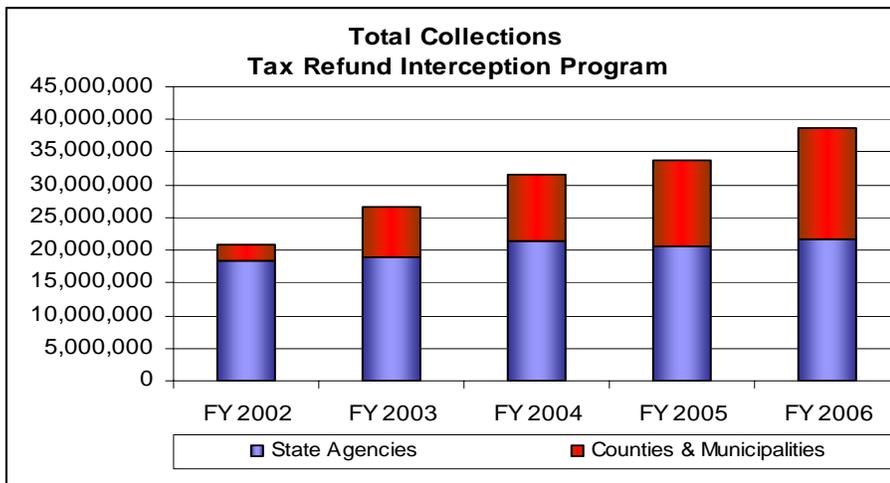
NOTE: State Agency Debts – There will be no change to the prorating policy for state agencies participating in the TRIP program.

Balance Verifications:

The new TRIP applications will send balance verification files on a daily basis. This is one of our new features.

The schedule starts on a Thursday – if you receive a balance verification file on Thursday, Friday, Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, you will have until the following Friday to complete your review and submit any corrective file maintenance (balance adjustments). See the following example for March

March									
Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
						1	File Maintenance Due on Mar 16 th	2	File Maintenance Due on Mar 16 th
5	File Maintenance Due on Mar 16 th	6	File Maintenance Due on Mar 16 th	7	File Maintenance Due on Mar 16 th	8	File Maintenance Due on Mar 23rd	9	File Maintenance Due on Mar 23rd
12	File Maintenance Due on Mar 23rd	13	File Maintenance Due on Mar 23rd	14	File Maintenance Due on Mar 23rd	15	File Maintenance Due on Mar 30th	16	File Maintenance Due on Mar 30th
19	File Maintenance Due on Mar 30th	20	File Maintenance Due on Mar 30th	21	File Maintenance Due on Mar 30th	22	File Maintenance Due on Apr 6th	23	File Maintenance Due on Apr 6th
26	File Maintenance Due on Apr 6th	27	File Maintenance Due on Apr 6th	28	File Maintenance Due on Apr 6th	29	File Maintenance Due on Apr 13th	30	File Maintenance Due on Apr 13th



**TRIP Success
A cost effective collection tool**

Collections in the last five years show that this program has benefited government on all levels.

It is a goal of the Department of Revenue to improve collections on behalf of state agencies, counties, and municipalities through refund interception and other collaborations.

Legislative Update – Certifying Property Tax Debt

A recent legislative change has made the TRIP collection avenue more powerful for local governments.

With the enactment of 2005 Wisconsin Act 454 (published June 9, 2006), debt related to property tax is now eligible for certification to the Tax Refund Intercept Program. The act defines the term “debt related to property tax” to mean delinquent general property taxes as defined in s. 74.01 (1), special assessments as defined in s. 74.01 (3), special charges as defined in s. 74.01 (4) and special taxes as defined in s. 74.01 (5). The term also includes any interest and penalty charged as a result of the property tax delinquency.

“This law change, covering both Real and Personal Property Taxes, affords Local governments an additional cost effective collection tool” said Cathy Bink, Director of the Compliance Bureau within the Department of Revenue. “With over 500 counties and municipalities already enrolled and over \$17 Million dollars collected in the last fiscal year – this program will help local governments maximize their collection efforts.”

Safeguarding Taxpayer Information

The setoff program requires that state agencies and local governments exchange sensitive taxpayer information in order to achieve a debt match with Department of Revenue tax records.

We would like to remind our partners of the importance of keeping this information confidential. Make sure safeguards are in place to ensure that personal and financial information is kept confidential.

The TRIP Web-page

www.revenue.wi.gov/ise/trip/index.html

- Past issues of TRIP News
- Resources
- TRIP Training Manuals

Contact Information

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

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The TRIP Listserv - Be among the first to receive TRIP News! Sign up to receive electronic notifications at www.revenue.wi.gov/html/lists.html. We will be sending reminders to check out the latest edition of TRIP News as well as program specific information.

This newsletter is distributed electronically on a quarterly basis. Copies can be found on our website at www.revenue.wi.gov in the government e-services section.